

March 20, 2015 Environment Committee Public Hearing Testimony

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Environment Committee:

My name is Chris Marino, I serve as Secretary to the Northwest Connecticut Sportsman's Council. Our Council is composed of approximately 28 sportsmen's clubs and associations located throughout Northwest Connecticut. Our combined membership totals some 5,000 plus sportsmen and women. Our members are your constituents and they come from all walks of life; all are hard working citizens who contribute mightily to the welfare of our State.

I would like to address the committee on behalf of a large majority of our membership regarding HB 6034, An Act Authorizing Bow And Arrow Hunting On Certain Properties On Sundays.

Through our regular monthly meetings; and through our regular club and association membership meetings, over the course of the many years Sunday Hunting for deer, by archery methods has been discussed and raised by the Environment Committee, I can attest that the consensus of our membership stands in support of the current proposed bill: HB 6034. In addition, I would like to add that in a council survey conducted after the 2013 regular deer season in Connecticut; our members, when asked if they supported the concept of Sunday Hunting by archery on private lands, responded with over 90% approval of those polled.

Regardless of where our members stand on various iterations of the Sunday Hunting issue, I wish to convey to the Committee, the one overwhelming factor in which we all agree; that is: We support a landowner's right to determine how his property will be used on Sunday; including the right to allow some form of recreational hunting!

The bill before you has tempered the landowner's rights by including scientific game management principles of a species (over-population of deer in this case) in determining where Sunday Hunting can occur. The bill selects the most benign instrument for the harvest of deer, with the least amount of intrusion to any other citizen's peace and security, and mandates setbacks from blazed trails of 40 yards. There is no intrusiveness to any other law-abiding citizen contained in this bill.

For these reasons; and on behalf of the membership of the Northwest Connecticut Sportsman's Council, we urge your support for passage of HB 6034.

Sincerely

Chris M. Marino
Secretary: NWCSC
3 Bare Hill Road,
Goshen, CT 06756